

The Sun

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1893.

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The Meaning of the Pageant.

The project of an international review spring from the public sense that the due commemoration of the immortal voyage of 1492 required a distinctly maritime display. The observance of that event by a fair held a thousand miles away from the smell of cannon offered certain advantages for the population of the deep interior, but Congress fully recognized that the discovery of America was an achievement in whose celebration ships and sailors must have a leading part. Accordingly, the act which provided for a World's Fair provided also for a naval review at Hampton Roads and a naval review at New York, open to all nations. As the Chicago Fair had to be postponed until 1893, the nautical pageant was postponed also.

The invitations to foreign countries expressed "the sincere and earnest wish of the President that this proposed celebration shall be commensurate with the importance of the historical event which it commemorates, and shall illustrate the extraordinary advances in the progress of naval architecture at the present time," and with this view, as well as on account of the appropriateness of the display, he promised, also, "reproductions of the caravels which composed the fleet of Columbus." For the largest of these caravels, the Santa Maria, we are indebted to the courtesy of Spain.

The total result is before us to-day, in the finest, most varied, and most picturesque fleet ever assembled in these waters or in any other waters. The promises that America's contribution should consist of "the most modern types which shall have been completed" has been fulfilled, while from foreign navies have come some of the most renowned of the world's cruisers, the theme of praise and comment during the last five or six years.

It would have been easy to add numbers and, therewith, quaintness to the display, by bringing forward some of our old-time frigates and corvettes, with their tall masts and long yards, capable of being showily manned and decorated. They would have helped to break the interval between the vessels of 1492 and those of 1892. But it was deemed wiser to hold to the original plan of exhibiting advanced types of naval architecture.

Apart from the celebration of a great historical event, another purpose is served by to-day's pageant. The American people have now for the first time presented to their view a worthy collection of the new vessels that have been under construction in our shipyards during the last ten years. As they see this line of modern steel cruisers stretched along the Hudson, and observe how well they compare with those of our friendly and most welcome guests, they will have a visible proof that the labor and the cost of reconstructing the navy have not been in vain. They will also be aroused interest in pushing on this great work, until our country reaches its proper place among the naval powers.

New York and its Mayor.

The city of New York is fortunate in having at this time of public festivities an official head so distinguished in presence, so fitting in dignity, and so thoroughly representative as Mayor Gilroy. He is a man whose unusual ability and great strength of character are at once impressed on every one who meets him in the discharge of his official duties. In the ceremonies of this week, in which Mayor Gilroy takes the leading part, he is exhibiting the quality of distinction which belongs to so commanding a place, and which will do service for him the respect of all the multitude of visitors flocking to New York.

At the beautiful weather of yesterday continued the city will enjoy to-day and to-morrow in light that will reveal the charges against its Government brought by a small and malignant part of its citizens. New York has advanced steadily in every department of its municipal administration from the time of the old Knickerbockers until now; but never before has this advancement been so rapid and so manifest as during the time that Mr. Gilroy has been in municipal office, first as Commissioner of Public Works and since as Mayor.

This is not a perfect city by any means. In certain respects it is still behind some of the great and ancient capitals of Europe, though in others it is ahead of them; but every year it is growing in the status of the most advanced civilization, and becoming more and more a center of trade, finance, refinement, and learning, of which all Americans have good reason to be proud. Coincidentally in outward and material form and in moral order, it is maintaining its place at the head of American cities.

The Mayor of New York holds an office which demands and taxes the highest order of executive abilities. In the whole Union there are only ten States whose population, singly, exceeds that of this city. If the Greater New York be included in it, as of right it should be, for in a large degree the inhabitants of all its parts are dependent for their prosperity on the government of the central municipality, only four of the States equal or exceed it in population. Measured by its commerce, its trade and financial importance, and its social influence, it outranks them all. For the whole republic it is the heart and the brains and the nerves. It represents America to the world.

Hence Mayor Gilroy typifies in his office the highest American civilization as expressed in the government of one of the greatest urban communities in the world, the most complex and difficult task with which modern society has to deal. He also typifies in himself the educating and developing force of our free institutions. He is the head of the most populous, the most educated, the richest, the most powerful, the most orderly, the most attractive, and the best governed city in America.

These are facts, and the observation and experience of every visitor will find abundant verification of them.

The New York Democracy.

For many years the Republicans of New York have considered themselves to be the special guardians and protectors of the vast farming interests of the Empire State; and their majorities have been almost exclusively recruited from the agricultural sections. Since, however, the Democrats have got control of the Legislature, and have carried through an apportionment which makes their control of future Legislatures probable, there has been a marked decline of Republican supremacy in those rural sections and a corresponding Democratic gain. In the farming portions

of Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Ohio, and New Jersey, there has been much change; and it seems reasonable to attribute the evidence of it here to causes local and not national in their effect. The course of the late Legislature, in compliance with the recommendation of Governor Flower, who we believe, fully and ably advocates the policy of Democratic candidates and Democratic methods of administration with those rural voters upon whose support the Republicans of New York have hitherto been relying with confidence.

To express what our Democratic Administration has done in respect to the great farming interests of the State, it is needful only to refer to the following particulars:

I. The establishment of a Forestry Commission, under new and progressive laws, and the inauguration of a definite and judicious policy in respect of the State's woodland preserve, its headwaters, and the irrigation of farming lands.

II. The improvement of the public highway and the extension of the country road system, under skilled engineering management. The burden of the expense of this needful reform in road building will fall upon the towns, as properly it should; and it will be no longer a desultory labor, performed in a slipshod manner, by private individuals or small communities.

III. The establishment of the Department of Agriculture, in place of the old Dairy Commission, and the amplification of its powers.

IV. Adequate provision for the State canals, the proper maintenance of which has contributed so much to the development of New York's material resources, and to its lake, river, and railroad trade.

These are only a few of the features of Democratic policy regarding the farming interests of New York, but they are salient and important. They show what the party of the majority is willing to do, when it has the opportunity through control of the Legislature and the executive offices, and they disprove the confident claims, repeatedly made by many Republicans, that there is the party which has given the agricultural counties the fairest share of just and useful legislation.

There was no State election in New York last year, but there will be one this year, and its effects will be felt until January, 1896, when the terms of the State officers and of the members of the Senate then to be chosen will expire. The course of the Democratic State administration will, of necessity, be the chief issue of the campaign, and in this respect the Democratic party can with confidence quote the concluding utterance of the Saratoga Convention which nominated Flower and Sherman: "We respectfully submit that this faithful discharge of responsibility justifies a continuance of the trust reposed in the Democratic party."

The Kaiser at the Vatican.

What topics were discussed in the long private interview between Pope Leo XIII. and the Emperor William II. is known only to themselves, but we can form some idea of their content. We recall their respective situations and interests. The meeting of the young sovereign and the aged Pontiff is peculiarly interesting, not only because the former is a Protestant, but because he represents the monarchical principle, which lately, for the first time in the history of the Papacy, has been repudiated by the head of the Catholic Church.

To one steeped in Papal traditions the fact that a self-crowned Protestant should bear the name of German Emperor would seem sufficiently startling, even if the assumption of the title had not been contemporaneous and connected with the loss of the Pope's temporal power. For a thousand years, from the reconquest of the Roman Empire in the West by Charlemagne to the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire by the fiat of Napoleon Bonaparte, the relation of the Emperor to the Pope was, in theory, extremely close, and the former title could not legally be worn by any except one who had been crowned by the successor of St. Peter. The German princes might designate a candidate, but, unless the crowning actually took place, the nominee would properly be known, not as Emperor, but as King of the Romans. Mindful of this custom, Bonaparte, when, discontented with the place of First Consul, he determined to make himself Emperor of the French, had himself crowned at Rheims. Although privately a skeptic and a scoffer, he fortified on that occasion more respect for the Papacy than was shown by William I., the Protestant King of Prussia, who crowned himself German Emperor in the palace at Versailles. The act indicated a belief that the Pope's sanction was no longer necessary to impress the popular imagination, and that, ostensibly at least, the age-long connection of the German Empire with the Papacy was definitely broken. We say ostensibly, because as long as the Catholics in Prussia number at least ten millions, it is injudicious for a Prussian sovereign to evince an unfriendly disposition toward the Pope. By adding to the Prussian Catholics the large number of their co-religionists in South Germany, a political party has been organized which still holds, and has long held, the balance of power in the Reichstag. At the bidding of the captive of the Vatican, that party would not hesitate to defy the will of the German Emperor.

But while Leo XIII. is so powerful in Germany that WILLIAM II. must needs invoke his interposition on behalf of the proposal to increase the German army, he is powerless in Italy, and virtually a prisoner in Rome. The Ghibellines have triumphed at last throughout the Italian peninsula, and they find victory may be traced directly to the success of German arms in France. It was the forced withdrawal of the French garrison from Rome in 1870 that emboldened VICTOR EMANUEL to break his treaty with NAPOLEON III. and to occupy the Papal capital. It is not to be expected that LEO XIII. can feel an outburst of sympathy for the head of the Hohenzollerns when he remembers at what a grievous cost to the Papacy the prizes of Prussian soldiery and Prussian diplomacy were won. It is natural that the predilections of the Pontiff should point to France, which, under whatever form of government, whether monarchical or republican, has, on the whole, been willing to serve the interests of the Papacy in Italy. As a matter of fact, the Pope, in his capacity of temporal Prince, has suffered and labored at the hands of freethinkers like GAMINETTI and JULES FERRY that at the hands of army in the pay of the Catholic King of Spain that carried Rome by assault, and committed far more devastations than had been wrought by ALARIC and all the other barbarian assailants of the city.

There is no doubt that LEO XIII. would like to see the German Emperor abolish the remnant of the Falk Laws and readmit the Jesuits to Germany. If it is worth while, for the sake of extending the influence of the Society of Jesus, to further the increase

of an army destined to be used against the French republic, to which the Pope has given public and emphatic marks of favor? If, at his instigation, the Catholics in the Reichstag should help to augment the aggressive powers of Germany, might not the policy of the Pontiff, a good will be doubted by French republicans? These, we may be sure, are questions which were considered and answered by LEO XIII. before he gave audience to the German Emperor. How he answered them we shall be able to infer from the course taken by the German Catholics when the report on the Army bill is laid before the Reichstag.

French.

A knowledge of the French language is especially useful at this time to those New Yorkers who may desire to hold converse with the officers of the foreign cruises now here. Beside the Englishmen, hardly any of the officers understand a word of English, but nearly all of them speak French. You will find the French language aboard the Russian and German ships, the Italian and Brazilian, the Dutch, Spanish, Argentine, and of course the French; you will even find it on the English and the American ships; you will find it on the quarter deck of the Columbian caravels. The Russian officers speak French like born Frenchmen; the German officers speak it very well indeed, and so do the Dutch, strange to say; the Spanish and Argentine officers speak it better than many provincial Frenchmen; the Brazilian officers speak French as well as the Portuguese kind; most of the British and American officers speak it in a way that would convince the Vicomte d'ARZAC, Monsieur POTJON, or Lieutenant ALFRED FORT that they are not descendants of the Gauls who taught JULIUS CÆSAR all the French he ever knew. They show what the party of the majority is willing to do, when it has the opportunity through control of the Legislature and the executive offices, and they disprove the confident claims, repeatedly made by many Republicans, that there is the party which has given the agricultural counties the fairest share of just and useful legislation.

Those of our New Yorkers who speak their French as Dr. CHAUNCEY MITCHELL DEWEY speaks his, will be instructed by observing the various ways in which French is spoken by the distinguished naval officers whom they may have the honor of meeting on the Hudson. We are pleased to learn that our venerable yet handsome-aye, venerable while yet under sixty-fellow citizen and fellow editor, Mr. WHITEHEAD RICH, has been chosen as escort to Rear Admiral DE LIBRAN at the great ball of to-night in Madison Square Garden. As we observed four years ago, when Mr. RICH was appointed Minister to France, and again fourteen months ago, when his French was challenged, he speaks French in a fashion that commands our admiration. We trust that Rear Admiral DE LIBRAN will have the pleasure of dancing at this ball with New York ladies who can speak French nearly as well as he himself speaks it. In his younger days the Emperor was one of the most graceful dancers in the French navy, and we must suppose that he has taken every opportunity to practise the art of dancing aboard ship during the years of his naval service.

As to dancing, we are unable at this time, and we shall not be able till after the ball, to make comparison between the Dutch, Spanish, English, Italian, German, Argentine, Brazilian, and American officers. We are disposed this morning to bet on the Dutch; and only a fool would be willing to take the bet before he has danced at a ball in Holland.

We now return to the French language. It is the most useful of living languages for the man whose lot it is to hold communication with the peoples of many separate lands. It is the most useful for the man who travels from country to country, in Europe or elsewhere. It is the language of diplomacy the world over, even in China. Interesting, indeed, is the fact that while but few of the naval officers of the powers now represented here know anything about English, nearly all of them can speak French. Our English speech possesses a number of merits; it is muscular, bony, hairy, spray-footed, coarse-grained, big-mouthed, heavy, and has some words with brains in them; but, after all, it is not as useful to the traveller as is the French, which is courtly, heroic, romantic, and melodious, and was the language of FLORENCE, MONTAIGNE, CONDORCET, LE SAGE, and VOLTAIRE. LA FAYETTE, BRUTE, CHATEAUBRIAND, both the SARATOGA HILARIES, and a host of other illustrious men. We perceive merits in all the languages of mankind with which we are acquainted; but, as we have already said, the most useful one of them for the traveller, the diplomatist, and the naval officer is the French, to which we proffer the assurances of our respectful salutations.

Beauty Bowered in St. Paul.

There was a Charity Kirmess in St. Paul last Friday night. A poet of the *St. Paul Globe*, perhaps the Hon. L. BAKER himself, at any rate, one under the immediate inspiration and guidance of that all-around diplomat, hymned the show in harmonious numbers. "In Beauty Bowered," he cries from a headline which stands out as clear as the peak of Parnassus, "was the Eucharistic Scene. Loveliness of Nature, Triumphs of Art and Commerce, all united to dazzle the Eye and fill the Cup of Joy to the Brim. The Kirmess surges swimmingly on toward a Pleasurable Climax." Canto I. is tranquil and cheerful. It was a lovely night overhead, a very fine night for a Kirmess, though "the inconvenience of wearing rubbers and overcoats was compelled because of the slush and wet snow which covered the sidewalks." But when gossamers were doffed and you got inside the Opera House, how delightful the contrast. This is Canto II.:

"Jewels flashed in the blazing lights, and the glitter of tiaras of diamonds, jeweled brooches, and other ornaments dazzled the eye. But the Jewels did not shine with the brightness of the eyes of the members of the gentler sex, flashing with the light of enjoyment. Quaintly dressed were well set off by elegant costumes, and the beauty of the women was enhanced by the fanciful dresses and pins tipped with gems. Bright costumes of shimmering material added their lustre with graceful shading, and the soft glow of white around shoulders and the cheeks here and there like a countenance from one of the creations of the muses. Beautiful awnings like flicks curved from out great oaks and tall like the flicks blooming in a snow drift, shed a soft light like drops of dew shimmering in the sunlight of a summer morning. Never was the beauty of the ladies of St. Paul more apparent. Many beautiful hearts beat more quickly in response to the charm of the scene."

In Canto III. the poet fairly reels with joy. His poetry has gone to his head. "It was a scene," he cries, "to make the pulse beat more quickly, to give the heart an unsteady feeling like the intoxication of old wine, as the scent of the flowers filled the nostrils and seemed to permeate the very inner cells of the brain. The beauty, the flashing lights, the music, and the moving figures on the stage, all combined to bewilder the intellect and confuse the senses."

Canto IV. gives us a lot of nature. The sweet strains of the cakewalk fill the theatre, and the audience keeps time with their feet. Then a young woman dances "with a sinuous grace and perfection of form which caused the members of the audience to forget the music and observe her with the deepest interest." O, rare old poet! Another young woman dances, and we see "her eyes sparkling like diamonds, and her face covered with a rosy flush which made her look the incarnation of loveliness. Down her back fell her golden hair in shimmering tresses like a shower of alien shen. Her dancing attracted the attention of every person in the audience."

Evidently St. Paul is getting ripe for the ballet. No wonder that the poet celebrates the whole performance as "Beautiful and Wonderful." Canto V. is a Catalogue of Horrors, and should be read in its entirety, but we quote a purple patch or two:

"The Greek dancers were the customary Greek dancers of soft, moving white material, graceful, pure, and charming, with white limbs shining like the statues of the ancients in the light of the stage. They danced in the most graceful manner, each bearing an antique lamp, on which a pale blue high flame burned, to the graceful figures bathed in the soft light of the colored light. The Greek dancers were the customary Greek dancers of soft, moving white material, graceful, pure, and charming, with white limbs shining like the statues of the ancients in the light of the stage. They danced in the most graceful manner, each bearing an antique lamp, on which a pale blue high flame burned, to the graceful figures bathed in the soft light of the colored light. The Greek dancers were the customary Greek dancers of soft, moving white material, graceful, pure, and charming, with white limbs shining like the statues of the ancients in the light of the stage. 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